I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye, comprising identifying a subject in need of treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye, topically applying a composition comprising from 10 to 500 µg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ocular surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues and wherein said internal tissues of the eye are selected from the group consisting of sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, vitreous body, and choroidea, and treating the pathology affecting the internal tissues of the eye of the subject in need thereof,
wherein the pathology is selected from the group consisting of: cataract, scleromalacia, perforating trauma of the sclera, optic neuritis, maculopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, myopic retinopathy, macular foramen, uveitis, vitrectomy, ocular hypotonia, and phthysis.

Claim 14 (Previously presented), The method of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

Claim 15 (Previously presented). The method of claim 13, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 18, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200-250 µg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 13, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye, comprising identifying in a subject in need of treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye, topically applying a composition comprising nerve growth factor over an ocular surface of the subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues and wherein said internal tissues of the eye are selected from the group consisting of sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, vitreous body, and choroidea, and treating the pathology affecting the internal tissues of the eye of the subject in need thereof;
wherein the pathology is selected from the group consisting of: cataract, scleromalacia, perforating trauma of the sclera, optic neuritis, maculopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, myopic retinopathy, macular foramen, uveitis, vitrectomy, ocular hypotonia, and phthysis.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 21, wherein the composition contains from 200-250 µg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment of a pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye, comprising identifying a subject in need of treatment of a

pathology affecting internal tissues of an eye, topically applying a composition comprising from 200 to 500 µg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ocular surface of the subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues, and treating the pathology affecting the internal tissues of the eye of the subject in need thereof;
wherein the pathology is selected from the group consisting of: cataract, scleromalacia, perforating trauma of the sclera, optic neuritis, maculopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, myopic retinopathy, macular foramen, uveitis, vitrectomy, ocular hypotonia, and phthysis.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 26, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 30, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 204 to 250 µg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is a pathology affecting the optic nerve.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is a pathology affecting the retina.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 33 wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 204 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 36 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 34 wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.